

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Qingquan SU et al.

Attn: BOX PCT

Serial No. NEW

Docket No. 2001_1479A

Filed October 2, 2001

HYDROGEN PRODUCTION METHOD AND
APPARATUS BY GASIFICATION OF
COMBUSTIBLES

[Corresponding to PCT/JP00/02149
Filed April 3, 2001]

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT TO REDUCE PTO FILING FEE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows.

In the Claims

Kindly amend claims 3-9, 13-18 as follows.

3. (Amended) A hydrogen production method by gasification of combustibles according to claim 1, further comprising a shift reaction step for converting carbon monoxide and steam in the produced gas into hydrogen gas and carbon dioxide by a catalytic reaction, after said gas scrubbing step or before said selective oxidation step

4. (Amended) A hydrogen production method by gasification of combustibles according to claim 1, further comprising a carbon dioxide chemical absorption step for absorbing